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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:24am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I feel that the proposed settlement does not go nearly far enough to remedy the immense irreparable damage done to the computer industry by Microsoft. In particular I feel that the settlement does not go nearly far enough at allowing independent software companies to produce products that can compete fairly with those made by Microsoft.

In order for independent software companies to compete they must be able to interoperate (with both the OS and other software) as well as Microsoft produced products can. This requires full upfront knowledge of numerous API's AND file formats. In particular the settlement makes no mention of documenting such things as Microsoft Office file formats.

It is an unfortunate reality that the Microsoft Word format has become a defacto standard for exchanging documents electronically. As a result every office needs at least one copy of Microsoft Word (in order to deal with .doc files they receive), and since for most offices it is unreasonable to purchase/upgrade/maintain multiple office suites Microsoft operating systems become a near necessity to run an office in today's society. There are other file formats that are vendor neutral (Postscript, PDF, RTF, HTML), but of course all of these are either poorly supported on Microsoft Operating Systems or have been corrupted (with "Extensions") by Microsoft in order to be less vendor neutral, and so they again will only be guaranteed to work on Microsoft Products.

Also the settlement very narrowly defines which APIs need to be disclosed and when they need to be disclosed. Microsoft only needs to disclose APIs used by the products currently defined as middleware. This would allow Microsoft to expand into a new area creating an expansion of their monopoly without having to disclose any of the APIs involved.

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